

Lesson Plan – “Your Key to the Virginia General Assembly”

For use in conjunction with the publication, “Your Key to the Virginia General Assembly”

Developed for grades 1 through 3



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Lesson: Using “Your Key to the Virginia General Assembly” to Learn About Virginia

Grade Level: Grades 1-3

Resource: “Your Key to the Virginia General Assembly”

(<https://capclass.viriniageneralassembly.gov/Publications/Publications.html>) The publication is designed for electronic or printed use and can be used in its entirety or selected sections.

Note for teachers: This resource includes suggested questions for students to answer as they navigate the publication, “Your Key to the Virginia General Assembly”. These questions can be used in a variety of ways including, but not limited to: independent work, group/whole class discussion, or a gallery walk around the room with the questions posted. Choose the questions that best fit your student needs.



Pages 1 and 2 (Key Areas of Virginia Geography and Key Points on a Map)

1. Describe Virginia's geography in one to two sentences.

Page 2 (Key Points on a Map)

1. What three cities have been home to Virginia's capital since 1619?

Page 3 (Key Moments in Virginia History)

1. Why is Virginia known as the "Mother of Presidents"?

Pages 4-5 (Key Points in Time for Mr. Jefferson's Capitol)

1. Review the 1788 and 2007 pictures of the Capitol. Create a Venn diagram and compare/contrast the original building in 1788 to the building in 2007.

Page 6 (Learn the Key Steps to How a Bill Becomes a Law in Virginia)

1. Create a Venn diagram and compare/contrast a Senator to a Delegate.

Page 7

1. Every January, Senators and Delegates leave their families and jobs to travel to Richmond to fulfill their duty of creating laws for the state of Virginia. Why might a person want to be a Senator or Delegate?
2. Thinking about this travel, what challenges might a Senator or Delegate experience during their time in office?

Pages 6-9 (Learn the Key Steps to How a Bill Becomes a Law in Virginia)

1. Answer the questions about each step in the process of how a bill becomes a law in Virginia.
 - a. Writing/Introducing a Bill – For a Senate bill, who writes the ideas into bills?
 - b. Committee Meeting – In addition to members of the legislature, who can talk about a bill in a committee meeting?
 - b. Committee Meeting – If a bill passes out of committee, what happens next?
 - c. Senate Floor – On which reading may Senators ask questions and debate the full bill (First, Second, or Third)?
 - d. Senate Floor – If a bill passes the Senate, where does it go next?
 - e. House of Delegates – If a bill also passes the House of Delegates, where does it go next?



f. Describe the four choices a Governor has regarding a bill.

Pages 10-13 (Key Items in the Senate and House Chambers)

1. Create a Venn diagram and compare/contrast the Senate Chamber and the House of Delegates Chamber.

Pages 14-19 (Your Key to Virginia State Symbols)

1. Choose one state symbol and explain why you think it was chosen to represent the state of Virginia for that category.